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CONCLUSIONS

1. Strategically, China is the most important area in the Far East. China's principal assets are its central location, vast land area and resources in manpower and materials. Because of its geographical location China can serve as a springboard for further military operations elsewhere in Asia.
2. Soviet control of portions of the Far East has already projected the USSR's military frontiers; provided the Soviet Union with access to great land areas together with the natural resources, industrial facilities and manpower; equipped the Kremlin with bases from which to launch further military operations; and denied to the West certain raw materials and the other strategic advantages of the area. Further development of Soviet control would enhance these benefits to the USSR. Conversely, loss of its present limited control over the Far East would not only deprive the Soviets of these benefits but would increase Western capabilities in the area.
3. Although less valuable to the Soviet Union than China, Japan possesses an industrial capacity which makes it an area of great strategic importance to the USSR especially as it relates to the development of a self sufficient Far East. Japan, the base for UN prosecution of Korean operations, poses a serious challenge to interests of the Soviet Union in the Far East. Conversely, under Soviet control, Japan would pose a serious threat to the U.S. position in the Western Pacific.

NAVY review(s) completed.

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Review of this document by CIA has determined that

☒ CIA has no objection to declass if it contains information of CIA interest that must remain classified at TS S 0

☐ It contains nothing of CIA

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4. Soviet control of the food and raw material resources of Southeast Asia, including the Philippines and Indonesia, could be of great strategic importance to the USSR. Control of the resources of this area would be indispensable in any development of a self sufficient Far East. Moreover, denial to the West of access to these resources, especially tin and rubber, would pose major difficulties for the West either under conditions of general war or conditions short of general war. Soviet control of the food surpluses of Southeast Asia could also serve as a strong lever to bring India into closer association with the Communist world.

5. Control of Southeast Asia would strengthen the Soviet military position in relation to the West. In the instance of the Philippines and Indonesia such control would provide the Soviets with advanced bases and place them in a position favorable for dominating the sea lanes in that part of the world and for more effectively protecting their lines of supply and communication.

6. Korea is of strategic importance primarily because of its geographic location contiguous to the borders of Manchuria and the Maritime Province and adjacent to Japan. The presence of anti-Communist military forces in Korea denies the Soviets an essential avenue of approach to Japan while maintaining a non-Communist position on the continent.

7. Communist control of Taiwan would eliminate the last territorial foothold of anti-Communist China, deprive the West of a link in its off-shore island chain, and increase Communist capabilities for operations

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against other island bases. Conversely, failure of the Communists to obtain control of the island would leave Western capabilities in the area intact.

8. In the event the USSR should expand its control in the Far East and attempt development of the area into a self-sufficient power complex, Japan would be a key factor in the early stages. Should such a power complex be thus established in the Far East by the Soviet Union, it could become a decisive factor in a general war occurring after such a power complex had reached advanced stages of development.

9. Control, even without development of a power complex in the Far East, could, in the event of general war, become a decisive factor for the controlling power. This would be particularly true in the event that the Soviet Union should prove capable of containing Western attacks in Europe, at which time the vast manpower and other resources of the Far East could be decisive.

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